

MINUTES
2nd meeting of the Monitoring Committee
Interreg NEXT Programme Poland–Ukraine 2021-2027

16 May 2023, Online (Zoom)

1. Launch of the Programme – state of play

- The Joint Secretariat (JS) representatives (*Mr Andrzej Słodki, Mr Tomasz Jędrzejewski*) presented the state of play of the preparation for the launch of the Programme, the events planned for the applicants in May and June 2023, LIPs' state of play and the schedule of calls for proposals.
- The Chairperson (*Mr Rafał Baliński*) informed the attendees about ongoing discussions with the Ukrainian National Authority (NA) on the following issues:
 - supporting micro-projects within the Programme (Small Project Funds or open call for proposals organised by JS);
 - implementation of a direct award project in ISO 6.2 (Priority COOPERATION) aimed at capacity building, supporting and enhancing cooperation between local government institutions.

The Chairperson remarked that after the finalisation of consultations at the national level the joint position on these issues would be presented to the MC members.

- The Managing Authority (MA) representative (*Ms Ewa Termena-Chyży*) commented on the state of play of the Financial Agreement preparation and emphasised that it was planned to agree on the final wording of Annex III to the Financial Agreement at the beginning of June 2023.
- The JS representative (*Mr Andrzej Słodki*) informed the MC members on the forthcoming meetings on the organisation and responsibilities of the regional contact points in Poland and Ukraine.

Annex:

- Presentation:
 - 1. Launch, state of play of PL-UA NEXT.

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2. 1st Call for Proposals – schedule & organisation

- The JS representative (*Mr Andrzej Słodki*) presented the schedule and organisation of the 1st Call for Proposals and commented on the process of the project assessment and selection.

Annex:

- Presentation:
 - 2. 1st Call for Proposals – schedule & organisation.

3. 1st Call for Proposals – application pack

- The JS representative (*Mr Stanisław Bielański*) gave an overview of the documents of the application pack and commented on the remarks received from the National Authority (NA) prior to the meeting. He also presented the technical modifications introduced in Chapter 15. State aid of the Programme Manual and explained that these changes had been introduced in order to simplify how the state aid would be approached in the Programme.

Mr. Bielański informed the MC that no comments had been received regarding the Evaluation and Assessment Manual.

- The NA representatives (*Mr Rostyslav Tomenchuk, Ms Yana Romaniuk*) noted the importance of a flat rate based on forecasting the projects budget and the possible number of staff that will be needed within the framework of the projects. NA UA remarked that the flat rate percentage within the cost category “Staff costs” (6% for projects under priorities HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT and 8% for projects under priorities TOURISM, COOPERATION) seemed to be extremely low for the projects with a small budget (0,2-1 MEUR), according to the calculations made, the average salary of employees in the project will be about 300 euros. Inadequate salary for the project staff could lead to a low quality of the project implementation, corruption and will push the beneficiaries to pay the staff through the provision of services article, which in itself nullifies the logic of introducing a flat rate. The NA representatives noted that the analysis of the MA is not complete because it reflects only current Programme (2014-2020) and does not take into account the part of the salaries drawn up through agreements on the provision of services and needs of possible project staff within the framework of first call of proposals.
- The MA representative (*Ms Małgorzata Zowczak-Wróblewska*) explained the Interreg Regulation requirements concerning the flat rate and presented a table with the flat rate calculation for the Programme based on the historical data from the Programme PBU 2014-2020 projects. The MA and the JS representatives further presented arguments for

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the flat rates proposed. The JS representative (*Mr Tomasz Jędrzejewski*) underlined that the flat rate percentage was based on historical data and in line with the Interreg requirements. They were supported by the representative of Podkarpackie region (*Mr Marek Rainer*) and the representative of the Controllers (*Mr Marcin Migut*, Podkarpackie Voivodeship Office in Rzeszów).

- The representative of Mazowieckie region (*Ms Ewa Orzełowska*) suggested increasing the flat rate for the Staff costs by 2% and added that higher flat rate for the projects with a small budget might encourage applicants to prepare smaller projects, which was not a good solution for the Programme.
- The Commission representative (*Mr Filip Chybalski*) said that the flat rate percentage should be based on concrete calculations and one flat rate percentage should be fixed for all projects under a certain Priority of the Programme.
- The representatives of Ukrainian regions (*Mr Nataliya Gasyuk*, Ivano-Frankivsk; *Mr Roman Shepelyak*, Lviv; *Mr Olga Iutovets*, Rivne; *Ms Olena Behal*, Volyn) and representative of Ukrainian non-governmental organisation (*Mr Heorhiy Veremiychyk*) stressed the importance of approving the application pack and starting work on projects. They agreed that the Programme requirements are clear and it would be the applicants' decision whether to apply for funds or not. The representatives also added that the Programme would give the applicants a chance to have additional funds for solving regional problems.
- The representative of Polish regions (*Ms Grażyna Szajstek*, Podlaskie; *Ms Magdalena Fotek-Kułak*, Lubelskie; *Mr Marek Rainer*, Podkarpackie; *Dariusz Stopa*, Mazowieckie) agreed that the application pack should be approved as the Programme requirements are clear and the flat rate percentage was properly calculated .

Decision 1:

- Approval of the application pack for the 1st Call for Proposals (with technical changes in the Programme Manual concerning state aid).

Poland: 10 voting members, 8 votes "YES".

Ukraine: 9 voting members, 5 votes "YES"¹.

Annexes:

- 3. Programme Manual. Regular projects. Part 1 – application (with annexes).
- 4. Evaluation and Assessment Manual (with annex).

¹ Voting results are shown in the Table 1.

Table 1. Voting results – decision 1.

	Name	Institution	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
POLAND					
1.	Rafał Baliński	Managing Authority	x		
2.	Grażyna Szajstek	Podlaskie Voivodeship Marshal's Office	x		
3.	Marek Rainer*	Podkarpackie Voivodeship Marshal's Office	x		
4.	Magdalena Fotek-Kułał	Lubelskie Voivodeship Marshal's Office	x		
5.	Dariusz Stopa*	Mazowieckie Voivodeship Marshal's Office	x		
6.	Galina Grabarczuk*	Euroregion Bug	x		
7.	Barbara Ingot*	Euroregion Karpacki	x		
8.	Cesary Cieślukowski	Euroregion Niemen			x
9.	Wojciech Żukowski	Euroregion Roztocze			x
10.	Małgorzata Pociąg*	Association for the Development and Promotion of Podkarpacie "Pro Carpathia"	x		
UKRAINE					
1.	Rostyslav Tomenchuk	Secretariat of the Cabinet of the Ministers of Ukraine			x
2.	Nataliia Zarytska*	Ternopil Regional State Administration			x
3.	Olena Behal*	Volyn Regional State Administration	x		
4.	Sergii Gemberg	Rivne Regional State Administration	x		
5.	Roman Shepelyak	Lviv Regional State Administration	x		
6.	Vitalii Ilchysyn	Ivano-Frankivsk Regional State Administration			x
7.	Halyna Loboda*	Transcarpathian Regional State Administration	x		
8.	Heorhiy Veremiychyk*	The Ukrainian side of the EU-UA Civil Society Platform	x		
9.	Halyna Voznyak*	National Research Foundation of Ukraine			x

* deputy member according to the RoP MC PL-UA.

Chaired by:
RAFAŁ BALIŃSKI (MA)

Secretary:
OLENA BUDARINA (JS)